

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. A-70895/DJB/VEJ  
Attorney Matter No. 463678-00192  
Application No. 09/977,151***In the Claims:***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A fitment comprising:  
a spout having upper and lower ends;  
a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness; and  
a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member including a semicircular member having first and second terminal ends, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness, and said second end being remotely located from said first end and unconnected to said frangible membrane;  
wherein said frangible membrane and said gripping member are monolithically formed and said semicircular member is recessed within said spout.
2. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 1, said fitment further comprising gripping protrusions extending radially inward from said semicircular member.
3. (Original) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said semicircular member is helically shaped.
4. (Original) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said second end of said semicircular member is located above said upper end of said spout.
5. (Original) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said semicircular member extends approximately 270°.

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## 6-14. (Cancelled)

## 15. (Previously presented) A fitment comprising:

- a spout having an upper end and a lower end;
- a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness;
- a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member including a horizontally extending member having a lower edge and a first end, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness, and
- a frangible connection interconnecting a portion of said lower edge of said horizontally extending member and an adjacent portion of said upper end of said spout.

16. (Original) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said gripping member further comprises a second terminal end, said second end being remotely located from said first end.

17. (Original) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said horizontally extending member extends at least approximately 270° along said upper end of said spout.

18. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said horizontally extending member comprises a lower tapered edge which terminates at said frangible connection.

19. (Original) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein a web interconnects said gripping member and said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness.

20. (Original) A fitment according to claim 15 further comprising a stop adapted to limit propagation along said frangible connection, said stop interrupts said frangible connection adjacent said first end of said horizontally extending member.

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21. (Original) A fitment according to claim 20 wherein said stop comprises an aperture in said frangible connection adjacent said first end of said horizontally extending member.
22. (Original) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said horizontally extending member of said gripping member includes cap-engaging structure.
23. (Original) A fitment according to claim 22 wherein said cap-engaging structure includes an external thread adapted to cooperate with an internal thread of a cap.
24. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 1, said fitment further comprising gripping protrusions extending radially outward from said semicircular member.
25. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 24 wherein said gripping protrusions form outwardly extending ribs.
26. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said semicircular member is composed of low density polyethylene.
27. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said gripping member extends above the upper end of the spout.
28. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 27 wherein said gripping member further extends in a space defined above said frangible membrane and within said spout.
29. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein a horizontal width of said gripping member is less than a vertical height of said gripping member.
30. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said second terminal end has outwardly extending ribs.

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

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31. (New) A fitment according to claim 1, wherein said semicircular member extends at least approximately 180°.

32. (New) A fitment comprising:  
a spout having upper and lower ends;  
a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness; and  
a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member including a semicircular member having first and second terminal ends, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness, and said second end being remotely located from said first end and unconnected to said frangible membrane;

wherein said frangible membrane and said gripping member are monolithically formed and said semicircular member extends at least approximately 180°.

33. (New) A fitment according to claim 32, said fitment further comprising gripping protrusion extending radially inward from said semicircular member.

34. (New) A fitment according to claim 32 wherein said semicircular member is helically shaped.

35. (New) A fitment according to claim 32 wherein said second end of said semicircular member is located above said upper end of said spout.

36. (New) A fitment according to claim 32 wherein said semicircular member extends approximately 270°.

37. (New) A fitment according to claim 32, wherein said semicircular member is recessed within said spout.